

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 SCS-06 CA-01 PPT-01 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SYE-00  
HA-05 IO-13 MCT-01 A-01 /083 W  
-----007080 031336Z /72 43  
O 031225Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5257

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PGOV, PDIP, CZ  
SUBJECT: EXPULSION OF AP CORRESPONDENT PROTESTED

1. SUMMARY: ON MAY THREE AMBASSADOR PROTESTED MAY ONE EXPULSION OF BONN-BASED AP CORRESPONDENT ROBERT REID TO DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER JABLONSKI, WHO INSISTED REID HAD COMMITTED FOREIGN EXCHANGE VIOLATIONS. AMBASSADOR ALSO BROUGHT UP RECENT INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL.  
END SUMMARY.

2. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, GOC ON MORNING OF MAY ONE ORDERED AMCIT AP CORRESPONDENT ROBERT REID TO LEAVE CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY SIX P.M. THE SAME DAY. REID WAS IN PRAGUE PRIMARILY TO COVER WORLD HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS, BUT HAD DONE PIECE ON WFTU CONGRESS AND ON APRIL 29 PAID VISIT TO CHARTER 77 SPOKESMAN LADISLAV HEJDANEK. EARLY ON MAY ONE TWO POLICEMEN ASKED REID TO ACCOMPANY THEM TO MFA PASSPORT AND VISA OFFICE, WHERE HE WAS TOLD OF EXPULSION ORDER, FOR WHICH HE SAID THE ONLY REASONS SUPPLIED WAS THAT IT WAS "A CRIMINAL POLICE MATTER." REID INFORMED EMBASSY DUTY OFFICER AND THEN LEFT ON MORNING LUFTHANSA FLIGHT. HE TELLS US HE WAS CLOSELY SEARCHED ON DEPARTURE BUT NOTHING WAS CONFISCATED FROM HIM.  
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3. I CALLED ON DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER JABLONSKI MORNING OF MAY THREE AND PROTESTED REID'S EXPULSION, POINTING

OUT THAT IT WAS AN UNFORTUNATE EXAMPLE OF DISREGARD FOR THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT PROVISIONS ON FACILITATING THE WORK OF JOURNALISTS. JABLONSKI RESPONDED THAT HE WAS INFORMED OF THE

CASE, WHICH WAS QUITE CLEAR CUT. REID, IN FIRST PLACE, HAD NOT BEEN EXPELLED BUT SIMPLY ASKED TO CUT SHORT HIS STAY-- A DISTINCTION TO WHICH JABLONSKI ATTACHED IMPORTANCE. HE WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT REID HAD NOT TOLD US WHAT THE PASSPORT AND VISA OFFICE HAD TOLD HIM, THAT IS THAT REID HAD ENGAGED IN ILLICIT FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS, AGAINST WHICH VISITORS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA ARE WARNED WHEN THEY RECEIVE THEIR VISAS. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERIES JABLONSKI INSISTED THAT REID HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO OTHER AP CORRESPONDENTS COMING TO PRAGUE. I SAID I WOULD RELAY LATTER POINT TO INTERESTED PARTIES. COMMENT: WE WILL TELEPHONE REID IN BONN TO GET HIS REACTION TO JABLONSKI'S STATEMENTS. END COMMENT.

4. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY ALSO TO BRING TO JABLONSKI'S ATTENTION TWO RECENT APPARENT CASES OF HARASSMENT OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL: (A) VICE CONSUL POULIN ON A ROUTINE SOCIAL SECURITY TRIP TO SLOVAKIA ON SEVEN OCCASIONS WAS REQUIRED TO SHOW HIS IDENTIFICATION TO POLICE AND ONCE WAS REQUIRED TO GO TO A POLICE STATION WHERE HE WAS DETAINED 15 MINUTES. (B) SECURITY OFFICER TROTTER AND WIFE EN ROUTE TO FRG APRIL 28 FAILED TO SEE A ROAD SIGN MARKING A MILITARY ZONE, MISTOOK THE INSTALLATION'S GUARD BOOTH FOR THE ENTRY TO A BORDER CROSSING POINT AND GAVE THE GUARD THEIR DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS. GUARD CALLED OFFICERS, WHO REFUSED TO ACCEPT TROTTER'S STATEMENT ENTRY INTO MILITARY ZONE WAS HONEST MISTAKE. TROTTERS WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HELD FOR OVER FIVE HOURS WITHOUT BEING ALLOWED TO TELEPHONE EMBASSY. PASSPORTS WERE EVENTUALLY RETURNED AND TROTTERS ALLOWED TO PROCEED ABOUT MIDNIGHT.

5. I POINTED OUT TO JABLONSKI THAT IN POULIN CASE TRIPS TO VERIFY SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMS ARE STANDARD CONSULAR ACTIVITY, WHICH MFA HAS RECOGNIZED IN AN OFFICIAL NOTE TO EMBASSY AND THAT EXCESSIVE POLICE ATTENTION TO POULIN MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO CARRY OUT HIS DUTIES. DETENTION, OF COURSE, VIOLATED VIENNA CONVENTION. IN TROTTER CASE, INADVERTENT ENTRY INTO DEFENSE AREA WAS REGRETTABLE, BUT LENGTHY DETENTION AND FAILURE TO ALLOW HIM TO CALL EMBASSY WAS INADMISSIBLE. I EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THESE INCIDENTS WERE NOT PART OF A PATTERN OF DELIBERATE HARASSMENT OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL.

6. JABLONSKY RESPONDED THAT HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE POULIN INCIDENT BUT SUGGESTED THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN STOPPED SO MANY TIMES BECAUSE APRIL WAS TRAFFIC SAFETY MONTH AND TRAFFIC POLICE ARE MORE ZEALOUS DURING THAT MONTH. HE INSISTED IT DID NOT REFLECT GOC POLICY AND AGREED TO SEEK INFORMATION AND INFORM ME. AS TO THE TROTTER

INCIDENT, JABLONSKI SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT TROTTERS HAD ENTERED A PROHIBITED AREA, BUT HAD NO DETAILS. HE AGAIN AGREED TO INFORM ME WHEN HE HAD MORE INFORMATION.

7. JABLONSKI THEN ASKED WHETHER I HAD SEEN PAGE TWO OF MAY THREE RUDE PRAVO, WHICH CONTAINS EDITORIAL DISCUSSING NYT ARTICLE BY RICHARD BURT ON ALLEGED US ASSISTANCE TO ITALIAN AUTHORITIES IN CHECKING ON POSSIBLE CZECHOSLOVAK SUPPORT FOR RED BRIGADES. HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT A USG ENTITY WOULD BE LOOKING INTO SUCH ALLEGATIONS AND INFORMING THE MASS MEDIA. THIS, HE SAID, DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO GOOD OR EVEN NORMAL RELATIONS. HE WENT ON TO DESCRIBE ITALIAN PRESS ALLEGATIONS OF CZECHOSLOVAK ROLE IN MORO KIDNAPPING. I RESPONDED THAT USG OF COURSE HAS NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTROL OVER WHAT APPEARS IN NYT AND POINTED OUT THAT SAME RUDE PRAVO ARTICLE CONTAINED A LIST OF ACCUSATIONS AGAINST CIA AND THAT IT IS A PARTY NEWSPAPER REFLECTING OFFICIAL ATTITUDES.

8. DECONTROL FOUR YEARS AFTER RECEIPT OF MESSAGE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPULSION, CITIZEN PROTECTION, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, JOURNALISTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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